



Chains of Command

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While exploring a group of devastated class-M planets in a remote sector of space, the crew of the U.S.S. "Enterprise (TM) " is shocked to discover a group of human slaves on a forbidding, glacial world. When the slaves revolt against their human overseers, Captain Picard and his crew sympathize with the slaves plight but cannot interfere in the conflict. After the revolt is a success, Captain Picard learns that both the slaves and the overseers were controlled by a mysterious bird-like race called the Tseetsk, who are coming to reclaim their property. With the time running out, the rebels kidnap Captain Picard and Counsellor Troi -- drawing the U.S.S. "Enterprise" into the middle of their deadly plan of vengeance.

Chains of Command Details

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The Fizza says

1.5 ★ Stars

A decent story, though not written very well. Riker and a few others are replaced by what I like to call : *Plot Pawns*. But I digress...

If you can forgive the bad there is some good here... might have even made a good plot for an episode. Recommended only to the forgiving fanatics.

Kristen McQuinn says

Meh. Not as good as I remembered. But it was a slow day at work one day last week, so I was glad for it.

Camille says

This one was a snooze-fest. Chickens!?

Judith Paterson says

I'm never quite sure why some Star trek novels are just ok and others grab me and I feel there's a bit more to them. The characters are all the same core of people and many of the situations are similar. This is one of the later; lots happens and it paints the protagonists with a few more shades of light and dark.

Clait says

Pretty good TNG book involving a very interesting and highly intelligent species of avian aliens known as the Tseetsk which have been holding an unknown colony of humans as slaves for generations. A slave revolt quickly involves the Enterprise crew in a brewing war. The best part of this book is the exploration of the Tseetsk's biology, culture, and mysterious past.

Angela says

Another slavery themed book, odd that its straight after 'Spartacus'. The writing style takes a bit of getting used to, the aliens are well done. The humans, well, those do seem a bit standard slave characters. An ok read.

Vismay says

I admit that I completed it in bits and pieces. Not only my laxity, but the utter “clichéd-ness” of ‘Star Trek (Next Generation) - Chains of Command’, was at play. Having read countless of such Star Trek books with similar premises, I must say it was quite boring. Even the fight sequences were few and far between. I have been busy for the last couple of days, so I haven’t been able to boast for myself a major feat in the annals of reading- what I have accomplished is the completion of ‘Chains of Command’ by Bill McCay and Eloise Flood, and that too grudgingly.

Bird like aliens haven’t held my fancy, be it in one of the Gulliver’s travels or for that matter Star Trek. And the one that unleashes a deadly bout of repugnant pheromone when cornered fails to stir an enthusiastic response from my dormant brain. One more time, Captain Picard is kidnapped. One more time, life of Counselor Troi is held at ransom. And it’s upto Commander Riker to save them. The plot lacks innovativeness. The only original thing that the writers have managed to come up with is a couple of lusty and sex-depraved hoodlums sprinkled copiously in the background who ogle quite openly at the beautiful ladies from the sky.

Though, I must say, I am being too critical of the book. If it is your first ride down the bandwagon called Starship U.S.S. Enterprise, you would indeed love it.

Though of course, I lack the necessary inspiration to further critique this book simply because my interest in this yawn-worthy book has dissipated.

Mikael Kuoppala says

Once again we have one of those As-Mediocre-As-You-Can-Get kinds of books, with lots of potential and a less than satisfactory execution.

Like so many other Trek books, this one- taking place in the post-Wesley phase of the fourth season- is about an ethical dilemma. There is a very low risk in that kind of story, since people rarely grow tired of ethical problems, like we do of so many other things.

It doesn't work that way in this novel, though, since the ethical questions concerning slavery are just sugar coating for us nerds. The authors soon start pointing the story in the direction of the all-too-familiar action-adventure formula.

As for the plot-twists in this book: they are rare and predictable, but the story doesn't grow tedious because of the professional writing style of the authors.

The other big problem turns out to be the characterization. Once again we get a bunch of characters who have the same names and positions as our familiar TNG characters, but- with the possible exception of Doctor Crusher and maybe Riker, who have prominent roles in the book- don't have anything else in common with their television counterparts.

In short: This was a readable TNG book that wasn't good or bad, packed with unfamiliar characters, but an all too familiar plot. If you don't know what mediocre means, read it. This is it at it's purest."

Craig says

I liked it starting on Riker's away mission but the direction the book went and where I thought it would go ended up in separate places. It's weird how the novels make Picard such a clutz and Dr. Crusher always worrying and not doing much. That I didn't care for but the conflict and the mystery surrounding the Tseetsk was interesting enough.

Benjamin Plume says

Pretty good generic Trek plotline. The title is somewhat misleading, though it turns out to be appropriate.

Kayla says

Another fascinating challenge to the Prime Directive and the philosophy of non-interference.

Jerry says

Good...but not great.

Alexander Bradley says

A decent read for an average star trek novel, though it has some interesting ideas its pace is slow and janky sometimes.
